

SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

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2014



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IS
NEVER A CHOICE.**

General Information

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery & the **2nd** largest criminal enterprise in the world (U.S. State Department).

Traffickers exploit children, women, and men regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, or socioeconomic status.

General information, continued

- ▶ Human trafficking is also the **fastest growing** criminal industry in the world. Whereas a drug can only be sold once, a person can be sold over and over again (U.S. Dept. of Health & Resources).
- ▶ According to researcher/author Kevin Bales, there's an estimated **27 million people in slavery** in the world right now.

General Information, continued

- ▶ According to the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking, **over 300 cases** of human trafficking have been identified in our state in the past 2 years through domestic violence and sexual assault programs alone.
- ▶ Calls into the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) in 2013, ranked Michigan 14th highest in the number of calls received. In many ways our demographics of being a source, transit and destination state for trafficking, is similar to Florida, which received the 3rd most calls.

General Information, continued

- ▶ According to the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, every minute a person is bought, sold, or forced into slavery.
- ▶ **14,500-17,500** people are estimated as being trafficked in the U.S. annually, with $\frac{1}{2}$ of those being children.

Forms of Trafficking

- ▶ There are two main forms of trafficking and they both have to do with Force, Fraud or Coercion.
 1. Sex Trafficking
 2. Labor Trafficking
- ▶ **FORCE:** Kidnapping, torture, battering, threats with weapons, sexual abuse, confinement, forced use of drugs, forced abortions, denial of medical care & beatings that can even lead to death.
- ▶ **FRAUD:** Promises of valid immigration documents, victim told to use false travel papers, contract signed for legitimate work, promised job differs from actuality, promises of money or salary, misrepresentation of work conditions, wooing into romantic relationship. Basic lies.
- ▶ **COERCION:** Debt bondage, threats of harm to victim or family, control of children, controlled communication, photographing in illegal situation, holding ID/travel documents, verbal or psychological abuse, control of victims money, punishments for misbehavior.



Human Trafficking Realities Chart

Human Trafficking Victims	Traffickers	For Human Trafficking to Occur
Can be found anywhere.	Can be employers, relatives, immediate family, strangers, acquaintances, business entities, or organized criminal networks.	Transporting or movement of the victim is not required.
Are just as likely to be U.S. citizens as foreign nationals.	Use force, fraud, or coercion to effectuate the crime.	Abduction is not required.
Can be of any age, race, nationality, gender, or socioeconomic status.	Often groom (manipulate) victims for a period of time to establish rapport, loyalty, and perpetuate the victimization.	Initial consent by victim to participate does not negate the crime.
May not self-identify.	Can be men, women, or children.	Force, fraud, or coercion is not required to prove sex trafficking of persons under eighteen (18) years of age.
May be children who voluntarily run away from home or foster care.	Are experts at exploiting a victim's unmet needs.	Ignorance of the victim's age is not a defense to sex trafficking.
May decline help, not cooperate with law enforcement, either initially or at the time of trial.	May appear to be of high social standing.	
May run away repeatedly and be difficult to find.		

SEX TRAFFICKING

- ▶ Sex trafficking is the exploitation of a person for commercial sexual activity through force, fraud, or coercion.
 - ▶ These victims are often forced to engage in prostitution, exotic dancing, or pornography.
- ▶ Important to note, ANY sexually exploited child is a trafficking victim, regardless of lack of force, fraud, or coercion. 40% of human trafficking cases involve the sexual exploitation of a child. (Attorney General Bill Schuette)

SEX TRAFFICKING, continued

THERE IS NO SUCH THING
AS A
CHILD PROSTITUTE.

SEX TRAFFICKING VIDEOS

- ▶ “Chosen” The Trailer, By Shared Hope International

Homeless Youth in Sex Trafficking

A Summary of Research Findings by the National Alliance to End Homelessness

- ▶ A review of the existing literature, studies, and surveys on homeless youth finds that unaccompanied, homeless youth are disproportionately at risk of being involved in and harmed by the commercial sex industry.
- ▶ Contrary to some stereotypes that most runaway youth become entrenched in street prostitution, the research shows that only a minority of youth become victims to commercial sexual exploitation (including stripping, pornography, and prostitution).
- ▶ However, a cluster of research indicates that somewhere between 15 to 30 percent of all homeless youth have engaged in commercial sex or exchanged sex for basic needs.
- ▶ Given the under-reporting prevalent with this population, it is significant that between one-fifth and one-third of the population self-report their involvement.

Homeless Youth in Sex Trafficking, continued

- ▶ A minority of homeless youth (maybe less than a quarter) ever engages in survival sex, transactional sex, stripping, pornography or prostitution.
- ▶ The risk of involvement in and harm from commercial sexual exploitation increases with prior history of sexual abuse, especially if the youth experiences sexual abuse after the age of 13.
- ▶ The most direct way to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation among homeless youth is to end their homelessness by housing them, either with their families or independently.
- ▶ Since the enactment of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, there now exist shelters and housing resources for homeless youth in every state.
- ▶ See full report at:
http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/c0103117f1ee8f2d84_e8m6ii5q2.pdf

Homeless Youth in Sex Trafficking, continued

- ▶ Michigan ranks 5th in the country in sex trafficking of youth (Shared Hope International).
- ▶ The three most common forms of sex trafficking reported to the hotline involved pimp-controlled prostitution, commercial-front brothels, and escort services.

Big Business

- ▶ It is reported that human trafficking generates over 32 billion dollars annually. (Organized crime and the multibillion dollar sale of people)
- ▶ Locations such as casinos, major sporting events, concert venues, military bases, business conventions, motorcycle rallies, or other events known for transient male populations will likely increase the demand for commercial sex.
- ▶ Unlike the government, it never shuts down. In fact, during high profile events such as the Super Bowl, the Detroit Car Show, etc. human trafficking increases in the area of the venues.



SEX TRAFFICKING VIDEO

▶ Shauna Newell's Story

SEX TRAFFICKING, continued

- Branding and Tattoos: A way to dehumanize victims.



SEX TRAFFICKING ADVERTISEMENT

Sex Trafficking Advertisement in Grand Rapids

- ▶ Erotic massage parlor reviews & happy endings
- ▶ CHANGELocation: Kalamazoo, MI
- ▶ nearby cities
- ▶ Kalamazoo(1)
- ▶ Battle Creek(3)
- ▶ Marshall(1)
- ▶ Byron Center(1)
- ▶ Wyoming(1)
- ▶ Charlotte(1)
- ▶ Granger(1)
- ▶ Grand Rapids(13)
- ▶ South Bend(6)
- ▶ Mishawaka(3)
- ▶ Latest Review



BACKPAGE.com_ SEPT. 21 (Lansing)

{} {} REVIEWED {} {} real Red head spinners OUT & INN call - 22 (east lansing)

Honey * Brown * Sugar * Sexy ♥♥ Juicy ☆★ Fun ♥♥ 80\$ Incall Special - 21 (Lansing incall)

♥5 STAR Skills ØNE DØ\$€ & YØU'LL B€ HØØKED ((WELL WÖR†H † BÂBY)) SîMpLY †Hε BεSt _ - 21 (Lansing)

Burr it's cold l day let me Jade come warm you up! - 21 (OUTCALLS ONLY)

□*□((Just)) *🍷* ((What)) □□((U Need)) □*□ - 23 (lansing)

want to get married ...and out of the business? - 63 (E. Lansing)

💎the one and only Diamond sure to please available anytime💎TONIGHT ONLY INCALL SPECIALS DONT MISS - 22 (lansing)

Pretty Eyed Wild Girl Tiger.! New In Town.Specials - 23 (Lansing)

Very, EnerGetic, exciting, TalenTed and Fun \$\$\$\$ specials all night - 23 (Outcall/Incall)

♥♥♥♥♥ Sophisticated, SEXY ♥♥♥♥♥100% independent ~ LETS HAVE SOME FUN~ *♥♥♥♥ - 21 (Lansing)

-->JENNY has NEW SPECIALS!!!!!! dont miss out!♥♥♥ - 24 (Lansing and surrounding area)

Rainy days make me horny! Come play with Arianna! - 24 (lansing)

** Something new and sweet , I'm the perfect treat ;) ** - 23 (Lansing, Michigan)

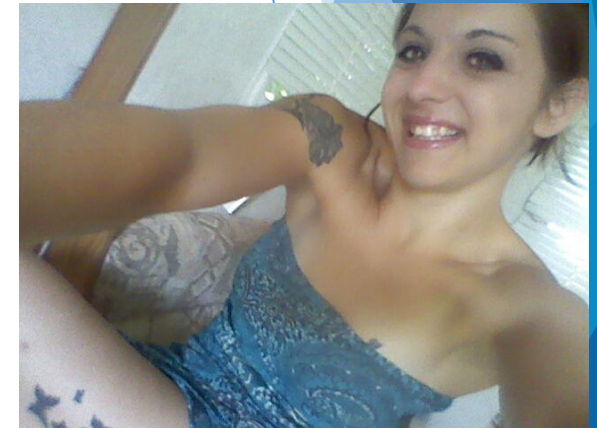
Dream back in town for all your kinky desires - 32 (Lansing)

This Italian can ride any stallion - 35 (Lansing)

tired of the spa's want something different one on one,i'm christie.diff pics - 38 (lansing)

Beautiful ° ° ° Delight ° ° ° To ° ° ° Start ° ° ° Off ° ° ° Your ° ° ° Day ° ° ° And ° ° ° Night ° ° ° - 28 (downtown Lansing)

Pop My Cherry! Specials.. incall/Out - 21 (LANSING)



LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking is the exploitation of a person for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion.

- ▶ Labor trafficking victims are often forced into domestic servitude such as nannies or maids, agricultural work, restaurant work, sweatshop factory work, panhandling, construction, and janitorial.
- ▶ Less known forms are forced marriage and those traded for the purpose of organ removal)

LABOR TRAFFICKING, continued

- ▶ In the Slave Next Door, Kevin Bales notes, that the 2nd highest number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. are enslaved domestics.
- ▶ Teenage girls account for some of this, but women also make up a large portion as they earn money to send home to their families.

DEBT BONDAGE:

- ▶ Enslaved workers don't even attempt to escape out of shame, fear of deportation, harm, death, or high sense of honor to repay debt.
- ▶ **THE CHEAPEST LABOR OF ALL IS FREE LABOR!**

LABOR TRAFFICKING, continued

- ▶ THE NHTRC found labor trafficking was most frequently reported in domestic work, restaurants, peddling rings, and sales crews.
- ▶ 41% of sex trafficking cases and 20% of labor trafficking cases referenced U.S. citizens as victims.
- ▶ Women were referenced as victims in 85% of sex trafficking cases, and men in 40% of labor trafficking cases.
- ▶ Michigan Statistical Data

“Beneath The Surface” Video

- ▶ *Beneath the Surface*
- ▶ According to the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, every minute a person is bought, sold, or forced into slavery.
- ▶ 14,500-17,500 people are estimated to be trafficked in the U.S. with half of those being children.

Know the Human Trafficking Facts:

- ▶ The U.S. Dept. of Justice states that the average age of entry into prostitution is 13, with 12 being the average for a boy and 14 for a girl.
- ▶ Close to 300,000 children nationwide are at risk of sexual exploitation and of the approximately 1.5 million runaway children, about 1/3 will have some brush with prostitution. (U.S. News & World Report)
- ▶ 1 out of 3 children will be approached by a pimp or drug dealer within 48 hours of being on the street.
(The National Center on Missing and Exploited Children)
- ▶ The average life expectancy of a child after being sexually trafficked is 7 years, with homicide or HIV/Aids as the main causes of death. (U.S. News & World Report)
- ▶ It is estimated that 76% of transactions for sex with underage girls start on the internet.

Know the facts

Mental and overall health problems for commercially sexually exploited children are two to five times higher than the general population of children the same age. One study found the following to be true:

- ▶ 25% of the young victims were clinically depressed
- ▶ 3% were diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ▶ 4% were diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder
- ▶ 25% had a history of suicide attempts that required hospitalization
- ▶ 52% had serious drug abuse problems
- ▶ 16% had been pregnant or had children
- ▶ 43% reported a history of physical or sexual assault
- ▶ 53% reported feeling unsafe
- ▶ 58% reported being arrested for solicitation

*West Coast Children's Clinic Screening

Michigan

Most people, including law enforcement, don't believe that Michigan has a trafficking/slavery problem.

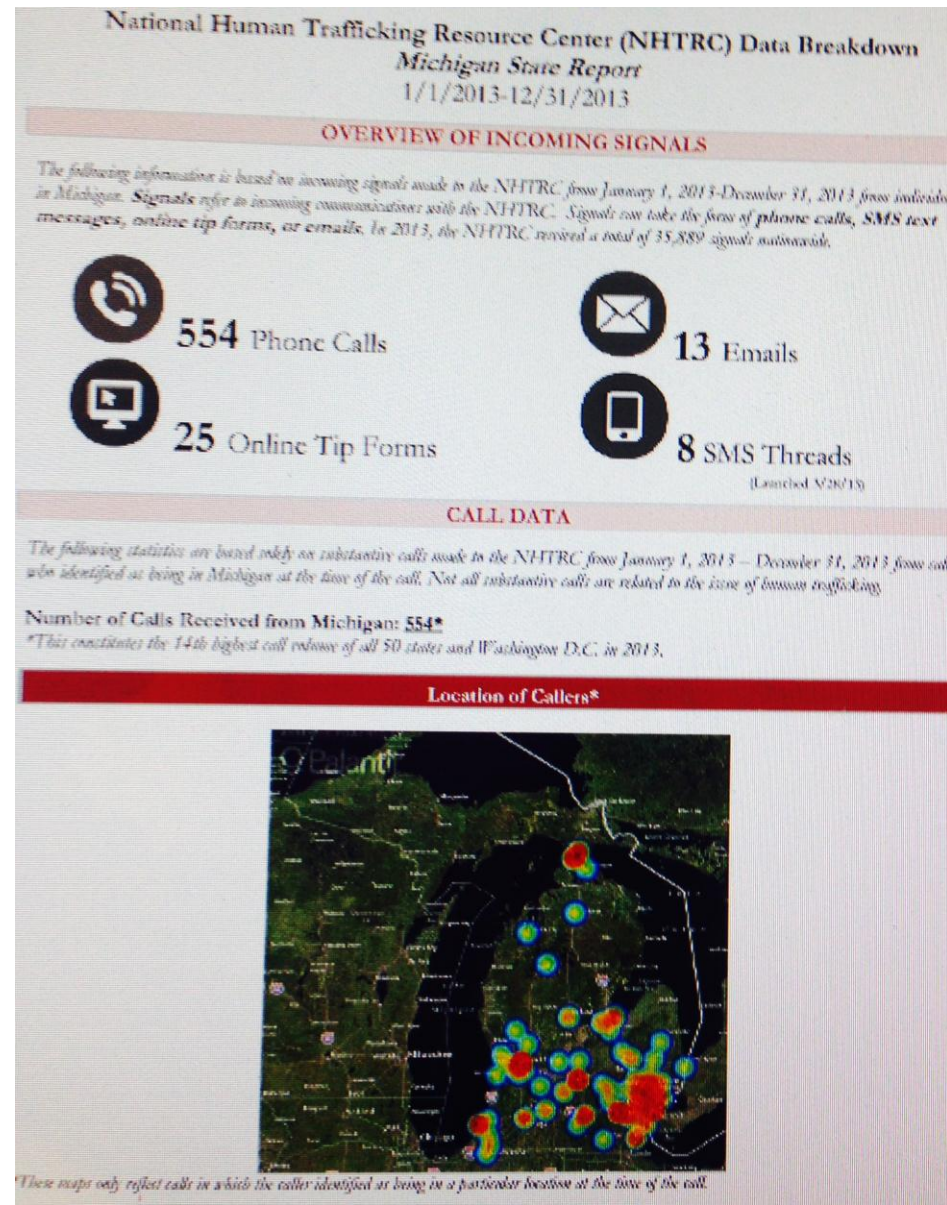
A July 2013 FBI raid targeting 76 urban areas throughout the United States, including Detroit, resulted in 150 arrests and the rescue of 105 minors.

Detroit ranked second in juveniles recovered and overall statistics, just behind San Francisco.

- ▶ Where might you see it?????
- ▶ What are the warning signs?????
- ▶ Are the warning signs different for sexual and labor trafficking????
- ▶ What should you do, if anything, if you suspect someone is being held a victim????
- ▶ What type of laws/training are in effect in our state at the present time????



Michigan State Report Info



Warning Signs of Human Trafficking

Since human trafficking is often a crime that is hidden in plain sight, it is important to be aware of its warning signs. Some indications that a person may be a victim of human trafficking include (especially in the case of women and children):

- ▶ Appearing malnourished
- ▶ Showing signs of physical injuries and abuse
- ▶ Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement
- ▶ Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction
- ▶ Lacking official identification documents or having false ID's & lying about age
- ▶ Appearing destitute/lacking personal possessions
- ▶ Working excessively long hours
- ▶ Living at place of employment
- ▶ Possession of hotel room keys
- ▶ Checking into hotels/motels with older males, and referring to those males as boyfriend or “daddy,” which is often street slang for pimp
- ▶ Dating much older, abusive or controlling men (5-10 years older)
- ▶ Poor physical or dental health
- ▶ Tattoos/branding on neck and/or lower back, broken bones, black eyes, marks on wrists, neck or ankles
- ▶ Untreated sexually transmitted diseases or need for pregnancy tests

Warning Signs, continued

- ▶ Small children serving in a family restaurant
- ▶ Security measures that appear to keep people inside an establishment - barbed wire inside of a fence, bars covering the insides of windows
- ▶ Not allowing people to go into public alone, or speak for themselves
- ▶ These warning signs are adapted from information provided by the Polaris Project and its National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Innocents at Risk & Gracehaven
- ▶ Having new clothes, jewelry or even unexplained cash
- ▶ Having a cell phone or pager not purchased by a parent or guardian
- ▶ Involved in the Foster Care System and/or protective services (Mich. Is ranked as one of the highest states of children in Foster Care intake with LSSM alone, serving over 800 children daily.
- ▶ Withdrawn behavior, jumpy or anxious
- ▶ Suicide or drug overdose attempts or substance use and abuse
- ▶ Extreme weight loss
- ▶ These warning signs are adapted from information provided by the Polaris Project and its National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Innocents at Risk & Gracehaven

Ten Tips For Middle School Teachers & Counselors

Developed by Holly Austin Smith, Survivor

- ▶ **Media Literacy:** As I have stated before, preteens and teenagers must be educated about the media, especially advertising. Business enterprises are sending distorted messages to teens via the media in order to make a profit. These messages include: You aren't pretty unless you buy this, you aren't cool unless you own this, owning this product is more important than anything else, etc. Traffickers understand what popular culture is telling teens and they are using it to their advantage educate kids about the dynamics behind advertising. For more information, please see my article on the importance of media literacy in prevention programs.
- ▶ **Coping Skills:** Children in intermediate and middle schools are often struggling with a myriad of personal and social issues: bullying, teen pregnancy, peer pressure, poor self-image, etc. Educate students about different ways to cope with stress. A teen who is losing the battle against any one of these pressures can be lured into what a stranger might call "a better way of life." Coping strategies can include meditation, self-defense classes, exercise, writing, reading, music, sports, crafting, etc. Also, investigate your local child-focused volunteer organizations (e.g. Big Brothers Big Sisters, Girls for a Change, Hardy Girls Healthy Women, among many others) and make this list available to students. Having a relationship with a mentor is an excellent coping strategy.
- ▶ **Extracurricular activities:** It is crucial to keep intermediate and middle school kids engaged in activities. Boredom leads to a lack of direction. Traffickers are most interested in teens who lack the guidance and support to keep them working towards goals. Encourage students, especially troubled students, to maintain enrollment in extracurricular activities.
- ▶ **Exposure:** At 14, I felt isolated from the rest of the world. When I met the man who trafficked me, he promised cross-country road trips with visits to exotic lands. I believed him because I wanted to believe him. I wanted to see something outside of my town. Expose students to other cultures and regions, even if it's only through media like music, documentaries, maps, and encyclopedias. I discovered Bollywood music and dance when I happened upon a program about Asha Bhosle in my late teens; it was as if a door to India had been opened. This could include exposure to different interests via field trips as well: the ballet, sports games, the theatre, orchestra concerts, etc.

Middle School Tips Cont.

- ▶ **Volunteering:** Adolescents are hormone-driven creatures. They're angry, they're sad, and they're impulsive. Their lives can fall to pieces at a moment's notice, and it truly feels to them as though life will never get any better, until it does... Volunteering can help a child keep things in focus, whether it's volunteering at a soup kitchen during the holidays or spending time with a senior citizen at a nursing home. Help your students see the world from someone else's perspective. Help them understand how fortunate they are by helping those less fortunate. A healthy perspective on one's own life will prevent attempted distortion by a stranger. Try to include a volunteer project in your curriculum.
- ▶ **Sexual empowerment:** Our society is saturated with images of sex, and most images of women in the media are sexualized. This teaches young girls that sex appeal equals value. This turns into a domino effect. Over-sexualized girls are magnets for opportunistic boys or men who will push to have their expectations met. Teach preteen and teenage girls that, despite seeing and hearing about sex on a daily basis, it is ok to say no to anyone at any time, no matter what. Also, educate teen boys that it is ok to wait; boys often feel pressured to have sex because it would be "uncool" not to. Instill the idea in teenagers that they own their bodies, and nobody has the right to touch them - no matter what, no matter when, and no matter how far things have gone with a person in the past. Traffickers look for girls and boys who lack assertiveness and for those who have been exploited in the past.
- ▶ **Sex education:** Knowledge is power. Sex education must go beyond the male and female anatomy. There must be open discussions about the realities of sexuality and the consequences to sex. (Including LGBTQ).
- ▶ **Counseling:** If a student's symptoms of depression or anger are disrupting their school life, please recommend professional help. Ignoring a child's signals for help will only drive them further away, possibly to seek solace from a stranger.
- ▶ **Trafficking basics:** Teach children the basics about child sex traffickers and the tactics used by traffickers to gain their trust and to lure children away. Incorporate survivor -influenced curricula to teach children about these tactics and/or invite survivors into your schools to speak to the teens. For example, going to the mall was something I did almost every weekend. And this is exactly where I met the man who trafficked me to Atlantic City, NJ. This man was not the "creepy, old man" I had been warned about; he appeared to be in his 20s. He was cool, like a movie character, and he looked like he belonged in a music video. Today, predators have the ability to look for girls on the Internet. Also, these predators come in all shapes, sizes, and genders. Women, sometimes victims themselves, often help lure unsuspecting teens away with tales of a better life.
- ▶ **Start a club:** Organizations like Shoe Revolt offer packages to help students start a club with the goal of educating peers about human trafficking.

Holly Austin Smith is a survivor advocate, author, and speaker. She invites you to join her on Facebook or Twitter and to follow her personal blog. Read more: <http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/speaking-out/2012/jul/12/title-ten-trafficking-prevention-tips-middle-school/#ixzz3E2xcVWZc>

Positive outcomes

- ▶ In 2012, the Polaris Project's National Hotline number, [1-888-3737-888](tel:1-888-3737-888), received 303 calls from Michigan and in 2013 they received 554. That's an 83% increase in one year!!!
- ▶ In 2012, the SW MI Human Trafficking Task Force was founded, becoming the 3rd h-t task force in the state, which is also a member of the Mi. Human Trafficking Task Force.
- ▶ Planting Hope, the fundraising arm of the task force, raised enough money to train over 1,000 State of MI law enforcement personnel in human trafficking.
- ▶ Locally, we brought in trainers from state and federal depts to train law enforcement, social services, victim support staff, and health care workers.
- ▶ We have spoken to groups or presented at exhibits all year long and presented at the state Human Trafficking Conference.



Positive outcomes

- ▶ We support the stronger legislation for victims rights through safe harbor laws and have advocated for such in Lansing.
- ▶ We are launching our anti-bullying/anti-human trafficking pilot program in the schools, through Denver's 2 year researched studied iEmpathize initiative.
- ▶ We brought in a national speaker/author/survivor to share her chilling story.
- ▶ We have been visible in the community through media, activities, presentations and trainings. Because of this, victims have been identified.
- ▶ We have a Facebook page and we add relevant information several times a week, keeping everyone informed about the latest on human trafficking information.

Eastbound I-94 at exit 39 near Coloma



What YOU can do to help:

- ▶ Add the National Human Trafficking Resource Number in your cell phone right now:

1-888-3737-888.

I'll wait..... Thank you. ☺

- ▶ Schedule a presentation/training for a group you are affiliated with to spread the awareness about human trafficking.
- ▶ "Like" us on Facebook at:
SW MI Human Trafficking Task Force.

The more people that see the daily information, the more people learn about it. We can't reach those that we can't teach.

- ▶ Report suspicious activity, again that number is: **1-888-3737-888**
or text: BE FREE
- ▶ Donate to the task force. Yes, we are a 501(c)3 foundation.

What YOU can do to help:

- ▶ Talk about human trafficking to others to raise the awareness IQ in your area.
- ▶ Be conscious of your purchases and when you have a choice, go with American made or fair trade.
- ▶ Support legislation and the politicians that are making a difference for the victims with better proposed laws. Let your voice be heard on this issue.
- ▶ Volunteer!
- ▶ Purchase a *bravelet*. Ten dollars of every *bravelet* purchased for human trafficking goes directly to the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force for law enforcement training. Thank You.



<https://bravelets.com/product/human-trafficking-awareness-adjustable-1>

I CARE Kid Rock Video

► *I Care*

We can make a difference by caring and sharing our knowledge.



QUESTIONS????????????



Victims are hiding
in Plain Sight

If You See Something,
Say Something.

24 Hr. National Traffic Hotline

Call 1-888-3737-888

Text: BeFree

Like us on Facebook @ SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

Contact us at: swmhddf@gmail.com

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